

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A modular cornice system, comprising:
  - at least one elongated and substantially rigid face section formed as a single and unitary piece, the face section having a front side and a back side, and a top edge and a bottom edge connecting the front side and the back side to form an enclosed perimeter and a hollow interior;
  - the front side including at least a first contoured surface and a second contoured surface extending substantially along a length of the front side;
  - at least one flap projecting from the back side and extending substantially parallel to the back side, the flap configured to engage the mounting bracket;
  - at least one substantially rigid return section having a connector configured to couple the return section and the face section; and
  - ~~at least one integrally formed retainer on the face section configured to engage a bracket for attaching the cornice system to a mounting surface; and~~
  - at least one ~~integrally formed~~ slot extending at least partially along the front side and between the first contoured surface and the second contoured surface, and at least one slot extending at least partially along a length of the back side, the slots providing access to an ~~integrally formed~~ elongated recess ~~configured to~~ that receives and retains a cover material applied over at least a portion of the face section.
2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the front side further comprises a third contoured surface.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein the return section is arranged to snap-fit onto an end of the face section in a 90 degree mitered joint relationship.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 further comprising ~~at least one~~ two slots extending at least partially along the back side, the slots providing access to an elongated substantially circular recess configured to retain the cover material.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 3 wherein the cover material comprises one or more fabric or textile materials.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1 further comprising at least one accessory panel configured to connect with at least one of the face section and the return section.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 6 wherein the accessory panels are provided in a plurality of shapes for customizing a decorative appearance of the cornice system.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 6 wherein the accessory ~~panel~~ panels further ~~comprises~~ comprise a projection configured to engage an opening on a the top edge or a the bottom edge of ~~at least one of the face section and return section~~.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the return section further comprises separate interconnectable pieces.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 1 wherein the at least one substantially rigid face section is two or more interconnectable face sections.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10 further comprising at least one connector configured to interconnect the two or more face sections in an abutting end-to-end relationship.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the ~~retainer~~ further ~~comprises a projection arranged substantially parallel to a back surface of the face panel and extending along the back surface of the face panel~~ at least one flap is configured to slidably engage the mounting bracket.

13. (Currently Amended) A modular decorating system for use with at least one cover material, comprising:

at least a first elongated member and a second elongated member, each formed as a single piece and having a front side with a contoured surface and a back side, and a top edge and a bottom edge connecting the front side and the back side to define and enclose a hollow interior;

a flap extending from the back side and configured to engage a mounting bracket;

the first and the second elongated members having connecting structure configured to connect the first and second elongated members in an end-to-end relationship to form an extended face section of a desired length;

return members having at least one connector configured to couple with opposite ends of the extended face section in a substantially U shaped configuration;

at least one substantially nondeformable opening on ~~at least one of the front side~~ adjacent to the contoured surface, and on the back side ~~configured~~ to receive a portion of the cover material;

so that the cover material may be applied over at least a portion of the extended face section to conform to the contoured surface.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13 wherein the cover material is selected from the group consisting of a coating, a paint, a stain, a wallpaper, a fabric, a textile material, and an appliqué.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 14 wherein the cover material is a fabric configured to be at least partially tucked into the opening.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13 wherein the contoured surface further comprises at least one arched section.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 16 wherein the opening on the front side comprises a slot adjacent the arched section.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein the opening on the back side further comprises a pair of slots ~~on the back side~~.
19. (Original) The system of Claim 13 further comprising an insert member configured to engage the opening.
20. (Original) The system of Claim 19 wherein the insert member is formed substantially in a T shape and configured to tuck the cover material into the opening.
21. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13 further comprising at least one accessory panel having a decorative profile to permit a user to customize an appearance of the elongated members by selectively arranging and connecting the accessory panels to the top and bottom edges of the elongated members.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 21 wherein the at least one accessory panel comprises multiple segments.
23. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13 wherein at least one of the elongated members and the return member further comprise a textured surface.
24. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13 ~~further comprising at least one elongated~~ wherein the flap extends ~~extending~~ parallel to the back side and is configured to slidably engage ~~[[a]]~~ the mounting bracket for movably mounting the extended face section to a mounting surface.
25. (Original) The system of Claim 13 wherein the return members further comprise tabs configured to support the contoured surface when the return members are coupled to the elongated members.

26.-37. Canceled.

38. (Currently Amended) A cornice system, comprising:

at least one elongated and substantially rigid first face panel having a front side and a back side coupled to a top edge and a bottom edge to enclose a hollow interior, the front side having a contoured surface and at least one slot between the top edge and the bottom edge to receive a cover material and retain the cover material over the contoured surface; and

at least two second side panels ~~having a first end with~~ and at least one connector for coupling the second panels to opposite ends of the first panel, the second panels each having a front side with a top edge and a bottom edge, the front side of the second panels having a contoured surface and at least one slot between the top edge and the bottom edge of the second panels to receive the cover material and retain the cover material over the contoured surface of the second panels; and

~~an elongated a~~ retainer flap on the back side of the first panel configured to ~~movably~~ mount the first panel and the second panels to a mounting surface.

39. Canceled.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 39 38 wherein the cover material is selected from the group consisting of a coating, a paint, a stain, a wallpaper, a fabric, a textile material, and an appliqué.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 40 38 wherein the slot on the front side of the first panel ~~communicates with~~ leads to a circular cavity configured to receive and retain the cover material.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 41 further comprising an insert member configured to insert the cover material through the slot and into the circular cavity.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 42 wherein the insert member is a substantially T shaped member configured to remain within the slot.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 38 further comprising at least one accessory panel having a decorative shape, for selectively customizing an appearance of the first panel and configured to connect to at least one of [[a]] the top edge or [[a]] the bottom edge of the first panel.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 44 wherein the accessory panel comprises a gap configured to retain a portion of a cover material.

46. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 44 wherein the accessory panel comprises a side panel connectible to at least one of the second panels.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 38 wherein the at least one slot comprises at least two openings on a front side of the first panel so that [[a]] the cover material tucked within the openings may be conformed to the contoured surface.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 47 38 ~~wherein the at least one substantially inflexible slot comprises~~ further comprising at least two openings on [[a]] the back side of the first panel so that [[a]] the cover material may be tucked within the openings on the back side and ~~may be~~ conformed around [[a]] at least one of the top edge and [[a]] the bottom edge of the first panel.

49. Canceled.

50. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein at least one of the first panel and the second panel are formed from a plastic material.